

Statement at the Opening of the fifth WMO Workshop on the impact
of various observing systems on Numerical Weather Prediction

By Dr Wenjian Zhang

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Dear Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning.

On behalf of the Secretary-General of WMO, it is a pleasure for me to welcome all of you to SEDONA for attending the Fifth WMO Workshop on the Impact of Various Observing Systems on Numerical Weather Prediction, organized by the WMO Commission for Basic Systems OPAG-IOS and sponsored by NASA, the NOAA/NESDIS GOES-R Program Office, and the THORPEX program.

As you are aware, the WMO Sixteenth Congress decided on 5 Priority areas for WMO, they are: Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS), DRR, WIGOS/WIS, Aviation meteorological services, Capacity-building. Among the five priorities, however, I'd like to point out that observation and information systems, and numerical prediction models are the common and essential infrastructure needed to support all the priorities. I am happy to inform you that, after Congress decisions, significant developments have taken place with the lead taken by WMO expert teams, especially on the development of WIGOS implementation Plan, through the Task Team work of the Inter-Commission Coordination Group on WIGOS

(ICG-WIGOS) chaired by CBS president Fred Branski, and the Implementation Plan for the Evolution of WMO Observing Systems, through the CBS OPAG-IOS, ET-EGOS, chaired by Dr John Eyre. These Plans will be of critical importance for WMO on the global network designs, and also critical for WMO Members to implement the plans. These two plans will be submitted to EC and CBS for approval, respectively, this year.

In this regard, I would like to highlight the importance and connections of this workshop to the above Implementation Plans, and the great potential benefits of the outcome of this workshop to both observation and modeling communities. On one hand, for the above Implementation Plans, many actions were developed based upon previous impact workshop outcomes, which provided strong scientific basis and justification, through your extensive scientific experiments and model validations, to guide the WMO relevant Technical Commissions to carry on global network designs, as well as guide WMO Members and space agencies not only on WHAT and HOW but also on WHY, further involving and developing their observing systems in a more integrated, optimized and cost-effective approach. Therefore the outcome of this workshop will definitely be used to further improvements of these plans. On the other hand, the further improvement and development of NWP, globally and regionally, will continuously rely on the progress, evolution and integration of these observing systems, as well as rely on how these observations are best and efficiently utilized in your system with the new science and technology development. In this regard, this workshop provides an

excellent forum for us to exchange our experiences, results, views on both: the strategies for the further observing systems development, as well as the new development on the best utilization of these observations.

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In concluding, I would like to thank sincerely all the sponsors, NASA, the NOAA/NESDIS GOES-R Program Office, and the THORPEX program, for their strong support. Special thanks to the Workshop Scientific Organizing Committee, chaired by Erik Andersson, from ECMWF, under the auspices of the CBS OPAG-IO, and great thanks to the Local Organizing Committee: Lars Peter Riishøjgaard, from JCSDA, USA, for their invaluable contributions to the organizing of this Workshop. Thanks to all participants for your excellent contributions to this workshop.

Finally I wish you every success and a productive meeting, and I look forward to seeing the fruitful outcome of this workshop.

Thank you.